

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of communicating between electronic devices comprising:
- 2 operating a first device at a first hopping frequency during a first period of
- 3 time and at a second hopping frequency during a second period of
- 4 time;
- 5 operating a second device at the first hopping frequency, the second
- 6 device communicating with the first device during the first period of
- 7 time; and
- 8 operating a third device at the second hopping frequency, the third device
- 9 communicating with the first device during the second period of time.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the second and third devices communicate
- 2 with the first device during the first and second periods of time, respectively,
- 3 within a single block
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the third device communicates with the first
- 2 device during a contention-free period.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the second device communicates with the
- 2 first device outside of the contention-free period.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the third device communicates with the first
2 device during a contention-free period.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the second device communicates with the
2 first device outside of the contention-free period.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 sending a signal from the third device to the first device, the signal
3 requesting communication with the first device; and
4 determining a time frame for the second period of time in response to
5 receiving the signal.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising indicating the time frame to the
2 second device.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the third device communicates with the first
2 device during a contention-free period, and the second device communicates
3 with the first device outside of the contention-free period.

1 10. A method of wirelessly communicating with electronic devices comprising:
2 receiving a first signal from a first device operating at a first hopping
3 frequency;

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4 sending a second signal to a second device operating at a second
5 hopping frequency in response to receiving the first signal, the second
6 signal indicating a time frame for a contention-free period; and
7 communicating with the first device at the first hopping frequency during
8 the contention-free period.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising communicating with the second
2 device outside of the contention-free period. E

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein sending the second signal to the second
2 device and communicating with the first device are done within a single block.

1 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising sending an initiating signal to the
2 first device to detect its presence, and the first signal is sent in response to
3 the initiating signal.

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein communication with the first device is done
2 within the same block in which the second signal is sent

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the first device is a Bluetooth device and the
2 second device is a HomeRF device.

1 16. A computer system programmed to implement the method of claim 10.

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1 17. An electronic device comprising:
2 a receiver to detect a first signal from a first device operating at a first
3 hopping frequency;
4 a processor to determine a time frame for a contention-free period;
5 a transmitter to send a second signal to a second device operating at a
6 second hopping frequency in response to detecting the first signal, the
7 second signal to indicate the time frame for the contention-free period,
8 the transmitter to further communicate with the first device at the first
9 hopping frequency during the contention-free period.

1 18. The device of claim 17, wherein the first device is a Bluetooth device.

1 19. The device of claim 18, wherein the second device is a HomeRF device.

1 20. The device of claim 17, wherein the second device is a HomeRF device.

1 21. The device of claim 17, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.

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1 22. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions that,
2 when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:
3 receive a first signal from a first device operating at a first hopping
4 frequency,

5 determine a time frame for a contention-free period;
6 send a second signal to a second device operating at a second hopping
7 frequency in response to receiving the first signal, the second signal
8 indicating the time frame for the contention-free period; and
9 communicate with the first device at the first hopping frequency during the
10 contention-free period.

1 23. The medium of claim 22, wherein the set of instructions further cause the
2 computer to communicate with the second device outside of the contention-
3 free period.

1 24. The medium of claim 22, wherein the first device is a Bluetooth device and
2 the second device is a HomeRF device.

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